

4. Some New Bird Records from Phuket Province, Thailand

The following observations, made during a brief visit to Phuket Island from 11 to 19 March 1980, supplement information given in MEDWAY & WELLS (1976), HOLMES & WELLS (1975) and BOSWALL (1978).

Crested Serpent Eagle, *Spilornis cheela*

An adult was seen flying over woodland near Hat Karon on 19 March.

Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*

One was seen in paddy fields, damp after overnighrt rain, near Hat Karon on 18 March.

Little Ringed Plover, *Charadrius dubius*

One bird was seen in damp paddy stubble near the shore at Hat Karon on 17 and 19 March.

Kentish Plover, *Charadrius alexandrinus*

A few individuals were seen on sand exposed by the tide at Ko Siray on 16 March and at Hat Nai Yang on 18 March. At the latter place they were associating with Malay Sand Plover (*C. peronii*), Mongolian Plover (*C. mongolus*) and Greater Sand Plover (*C. leschenaultii*). The males of *alexandrinus* and *peronii* both have incomplete black breast bands, but *peronii* can readily be distinguished as the band continues across the nape, whereas it does not in *alexandrinus*.

Malay Sand Plover, *Charadrius peronii*

A pair was seen at Hat Karon with three very small young on 16 March, but only two could be found on 17 and 18 March. Another pair with four rather larger young was found about 1 km away on 17 March. MEDWAY & WELLS (1976) give the maximum clutch size for this species in the Malay Peninsula as three.

Mongolian Plover, *Charadrius mongolus*

A few were present on the shore at Hat Nai Yang on 18 March. They were in winter plumage, but were separated from Greater Sand Plover

(*C. leschenaultii*), which were also present and have previously been reported from Phuket, on the basis of size.

Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*

Six were present at low tide on the exposed mud at Ko Siray on 16 March.

Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia*

One was seen feeding on sand exposed at low tide at Hat Nai Yang on 18 March.

Woodcock, *Scolopax rusticola*

One bird was flushed shortly after dawn on 17 March from ground cover below a sugar palm behind the beach at Hat Karon.

Indian Hanging Lorikeet *Loriculus vernalis*

A single bird was watched feeding in coastal casuarinas at Hat Karon on 16 March.

Pacific Swift, *Apus pacificus*

Three birds were seen about 3 km from Hat Nai Yang and another four at Hat Nai Yang on 18 March. Both parties were hawking over high trees and the birds were seen to perch on the trees.

Asian Palm Swift, *Cypsiurus batasiensis*

This species was seen commonly in Phuket in the vicinity of palm trees. A party of six roosted together in the crown of a sugar palm at Hat Karon.

White-breasted Kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Single birds were seen in a number of localities, including individuals carrying food near Phuket Town on 16 March and Hat Karon on 18 March.

Red-rumped Swallow, *Hirundo daurica*

A single bird was seen near Hat Nai Harn on 17 March, but the brief view did not allow identification of the race.

Stripe-throated Bulbul, Pycnonotatus finlaysoni

Single birds were seen at Hat Kata on 12 March, Hat Rawai on 15 March and Ko Siray on 16 March.

Blanford's Bulbul, Pycnonotus blanfordi

Regularly seen: a pair was feeding young in a nest in a tree on the coast at Hat Nai Harn on 13 March. The nest was located in a crotch near the main trunk about 5 m above the ground. According to MEDWAY & WELLS (1976) the nest of this species has not been recorded in the Peninsula.

Black Drongo, Dicrurus adsimilis

MEDWAY & WELLS (1976) overlooked Hume's (1879) record of *Buchanga atra albirictus* (= *Dicrurus adsimilis*) for Phuket, but Wells (pers. comm.) has subsequently confirmed that two skins from Phuket in the British Museum are of this species. I found it regularly on Phuket, where it was frequently seen perching on the backs of buffaloes.

Large-billed Crow, Corvus macrorhynchos

Odd birds were seen in coconut plantations on the coast at Hat Rawai on 14 and 15 March; two were in casuarinas on the coast at Hat Nai Yang on 18 March.

Blue Rock Thrush, Monticola solitarius

A single bird was seen frequenting a line of sugar palms by the coast at Hat Karon on 18 and 19 March. This was an all-blue bird, most probably of the migrant race *M.s. pandoo*.

Thick-billed Warbler, Acrocephalus aedon

A single bird was seen in secondary growth inland from Rawai on 14 March. It was a large brown warbler similar in size to *A. orientalis*, but lacking a superciliary stripe.

Yellow Wagtail, Motacilla flava

Small numbers were present at several localities on the coast. The sub-species was not identified.

Black-bellied Sunbird, *Nectarinia jugularis*

A male was seen in casuarinas on the coast at Hat Rawai on 12 and 15 March.

Pegu Sparrow, *Passer flaveolus*

A colony at Hat Karon was watched from 11 to 19 March. This included some young birds out of the nest being fed by adults and at least two nests in the crown of sugar palms. Fifty-seven were counted coming out of a roost in a casuarina at dawn on 19 March. A single female was seen near Phuket Town on 12 March; single males were seen calling at Hat Rawai and near Wat Chalong on 15 March.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to Dr. D. R. Wells, University of Malaya, for his assistance with the preparation of these notes.

REFERENCES

BOSWALL, J. 1978. Overlooked and new birds from Phuket Province, Thailand. *Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam. Soc.* 27 : 198.

HOLMES, D.A. and D.R. WELLS. 1975. Further observation on the birds of South Thailand. *Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc.* 26 : 61-78.

HUME, A.O. 1879. The birds of the Malay Peninsula; second notice. *Stray Feathers* 8 : 151-162.

D. Summers-Smith

Merlewood, The Avenue,
Guisborough,
Cleveland TS14 8EE,
England.